

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1 1. A hand-held food processor device for selectively slicing or grating
2 foodstuff, comprising:
3 a housing member formed having an upper handle section and a lower
4 processing section open at the base thereof, said housing member
5 further formed having an open compartment adjacent to the lower
6 processing section for receipt of the foodstuff to be processed;
7 a processing plate member having a cutting surface contained therein, said
8 processing plate member being removably mounted and slidably
9 disposed for linear movement thereof through the base of the lower
10 processing section of said housing member and reciprocating passage
11 of the cutting surface through the open compartment;
12 spring-loaded lever means operatively coupled to said housing member and
13 releasably engaged to said processing plate member for actuating by
14 hand the linear movement of said processing plate member and
15 reciprocating passage of the cutting surface through the open
16 compartment; and
17 spring-loaded press means releasably engaged to said housing member
18 above the open compartment and slidably disposed for travel
19 therethrough upon actuation thereof by hand to force the foodstuff
20 through the compartment and onto the cutting surface during
21 reciprocating passage.

1 2. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said housing member further comprises:
3 a panel member positioned between the lower processing section and the
4 open compartment, the panel member being formed having a slot
5 extending longitudinally therethrough and a recessed section formed
6 rearwardly in said panel member at the top of the slot.

1 3. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 2,
2 wherein said spring-loaded press means comprises:
3 a press head member mounted within the slot forwardly of said panel
4 member for linear travel upward and downward through the open
5 compartment;
6 a pad member connected to said press head member rearwardly of said panel
7 member, said pad member being formed to fit the recessed section in
8 said panel member to hold said press head member at the top of the
9 slot; and
10 spring means operatively engaged to said pad member for urging said press
11 head member downward through the open compartment.

1 4. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 3,
2 wherein said press head member is sized in lateral cross section to conform
3 with the open compartment and provided with a ridged surface at the bottom
4 thereof to grip the foodstuff.

1 5. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 3,
2 wherein said pad member is formed to provide a slotted configuration to
3 engage said spring means.

1 6. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 5,
2 wherein said spring means comprises:
3 a torsion spring supported within the lower processing section of said
4 housing member and mounted axially to the panel member, said
5 torsion spring having a coil body and a leg extending radially
6 therefrom to engage the slotted configuration on said pad member.

1 7. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 1,
2 wherein said spring-loaded lever means comprises:
3 a lever arm extending substantially through said housing member and
4 pivotally connected thereto, said lever arm being formed having a
5 grip-like section at one end thereof proximate to the upper handle
6 section and a tapered tip at the opposite end proximate to the base of
7 the lower processing section;
8 a first spring member operatively connected between said lever arm and said
9 housing member to bias the grip-like section of said lever arm
10 outward from the upper handle section of said housing member; and
11 a second spring member mounted within the lower processing section of said
12 housing member and operatively engaged to said lever arm to bias the
13 tapered tip into operative engagement with said processing plate
14 member.

1 8. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 7,
2 wherein:
3 said first spring member is a torsion spring having a coil body and a pair of
4 legs extending from opposite ends thereof to flexibly couple the grip-
5 like section of said lever arm to the upper handle section of said
6 housing member; and
7 said second spring member is a leaf spring.

1 9. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 7,
2 wherein said processing plate member is formed having a keyway opening
3 to engage the tapered tip of said lever arm.

1 10. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 1,
2 wherein the cutting surface of said processing plate member is selectively
3 determined.

1 11. A hand-held food preparation device for selectively processing
2 a foodstuff, comprising:
3 a housing member having a chamber extending longitudinally therethrough,
4 said housing member comprising an upper section formed having a
5 handle surface and a lower section formed having an opening at the
6 base thereof, said housing member further comprising an open
7 compartment forwardly projecting from the lower section to receive
8 the foodstuff to be processed;
9 a processing plate member having a cutting surface contained therein, said
10 processing member being insertable within the base opening of the
11 lower and slidable section therein to permit reciprocating movement
12 of the cutting surface through the open compartment;
13 spring-loaded lever means rotatably disposed within the chamber of said
14 housing member and adapted for engagement with said processing
15 plate member to provide reciprocating movement of the cutting
16 surface through the open compartment; and
17 spring-loaded press means releasably engaged to said housing member and
18 slidably disposed within the open compartment to force the foodstuff
19 through the compartment and onto the cutting surface during
20 reciprocating movement thereof.

1 12. A hand-held food preparation device according to Claim 11
2 wherein the open compartment extends upward along the front of said
3 housing member and includes a panel member positioned to separate the
4 open compartment from the chamber of said housing member.

1 13. A hand-held food preparation device according to Claim 12,
2 wherein the panel member is formed having a slot therethrough extending
3 along the open compartment with a recessed section further formed on the
4 interior side of the panel member.

1 14. A hand-held food preparation device according to Claim 13,
2 wherein the spring-loaded press means comprises:
3 a press head member slidably disposed within the slot of said panel member
4 for linear travel upward and downward through the open
5 compartment;
6 a pad member connected to said press head member on the interior side of
7 the panel member and formed to fit the recessed section therein for
8 holding said press head member at the top of the slot; and
9 a torsion spring operatively connected to said pad member for urging said
10 press head member downward through the open compartment.

1 15. A hand-held food preparation device according to Claim 11,
2 wherein the spring-loaded lever means comprises:
3 a lever arm extending substantially through said housing and pivotally
4 coupled thereto to permit rotational movement of said lever arm
5 within the chamber of said housing;
6 a first spring member engaged between said lever arm and the upper section
7 of said housing member to bias said lever arm in an operating
8 position; and
9 a second spring member mounted within the lower section of said housing
10 member and releasably engaged with said lever arm to bias the lever
11 arm into operative engagement with said processing plate member.

1 16. A hand-held food preparation device according to Claim 15,
2 wherein:
3 said lever arm is formed having a grip-like head proximate to the handle
4 surface on said housing member and a tapered tip proximate to the
5 base of the lower housing section in the operating position;
6 said first spring member is a torsion spring having a central coil and a pair of
7 legs extending from opposite ends thereof to couple the grip-like head
8 to the handle surface in the biased operating position; and
9 said second spring member is a leaf spring.

1 17. A hand-held food preparation device according to Claim 16,
2 wherein said processing plate member is formed having a keyway opening
3 to engage the tapered tip of said lever arm.

1 18. A hand-held food processor device according to Claim 11,
2 wherein the cutting surface of said processing plate member is
3 predetermined based on the processing selected for the foodstuff.

1 19. A device operated by hand for selectively processing foodstuff,
2 comprising:
3 a housing body formed having an upper handle surface and an open base,
4 said housing body being further formed having an open compartment
5 forwardly disposed thereon and extending upward from the open base
6 to receive foodstuff to be processed;
7 a processing plate having a preselected cutting surface contained therein,
8 said processing plate being releasably engaged and slidably disposed
9 within the base of said housing body to reciprocate the cutting surface
10 through the open compartment;
11 lever means pivotally connected to said housing body and operatively
12 coupled to said processing plate, said lever means being actuated by
13 hand to slide said processing plate through the base with the cutting
14 surface reciprocating through the open compartment; and
15 spring-loaded press means releasably engaged to said housing body within
16 the open compartment and slidably disposed therethrough upon
17 actuation by hand for urging foodstuff through the compartment and
18 onto the cutting surface reciprocating therethrough.